

The author collected masks, though Andree and others have denied this occurrence in Greenland, which are probably used for magico-religious purposes, as in Alaska. He unduly emphasises the similarity of type occasionally found between Eskimo and American Indians, which he attributes to kinship of race. The low stature of the Eskimo he regards as an adaptation to the climate of the far north, as the strong storms do not permit tall plants to grow, and suggests that the lack of hair on the face of the pure Eskimo is consequent on the inconvenience caused by the formation of icicles! West Greenlanders are for the most part of mixed Eskimo and Danish origin; in fact, the largest "colony" boasts of only one pure-bred Eskimo.

The seal plays a very large part in the life of the Eskimo, and Dr. Trebitsch gives some interesting details of the methods employed in capturing it. The kayak is provided with a square white sail, almost concealing the hunter, which the seal is supposed to mistake for an iceberg. The seal is first shot with a rifle, and then harpooned, so that the harpoon float may prevent it from sinking. In winter two men use a harpoon with a composite shaft some 6 metres long. A very large and a small hole are bored in the ice; one hunter lies down peering into the former, and when he catches sight of a seal he moves the harpoon point to and fro in the small hole, which attracts the seal. At the right moment both men thrust the harpoon with all their might. This mode of hunting is called "he looks through a hole." In East Greenland bait is employed. The mainland Eskimo, however, always wait for a seal to come up to a breathing hole.

Native social customs are considerably in abeyance among the Christianised Eskimo, but the author was sometimes able to secure traces of the past; for instance, one missionary allowed the performance of one of the old native dances. The songs and stories, of which a large collection of phonographic records was taken, are in many cases modern, but some are manifestly old, and refer to cannibalism, exchange of wives, and the mating of girls with animals. Many of the songs have a homely vein. In some cases the distribution of the folk-tales is discussed. There is an ethnological appendix by Dr. M. Haberlandt, who describes the objects collected by Dr. Trebitsch for the Vienna Museum.

A. C. HADDON.

A VETERAN ANTHROPOLOGIST.

Memories of Eighty Years. By Dr. John Beddoe, F.R.S. Pp. xi+322. (Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith; London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

DR. BEDDOE has followed the example of another distinguished anthropologist, the late Sir Francis Galton, in writing the memories of his life. This practice is to be commended, as it furnishes not only pleasant reading with a great deal of human interest, but also valuable material for the future historian of anthropology.

Dr. Beddoe, who may well be regarded as the founder of field anthropology, since he began making

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observations on hair and eye colours seventy years ago, records in this book the leading events of a long and active career. Born in 1826, on the English side of the Welsh border, he started life as a student of law, but soon abandoned that for the more congenial study of medicine. He acquired his medical knowledge at University College, London, and the University of Edinburgh.

In 1854 he went out to the Crimea as a member of a civil medical staff, where, though he had very little medical service to perform, he had the opportunity of making observations on many Oriental races. After his return from the Crimea, he decided to complete his medical studies at Vienna, and he gives an interesting account of his journey through Holland, Germany, and Bohemia, with many valuable and original observations on the ethnological features of the races he encountered on the way. He met van der Hoeven in Holland, and Virchow at Berlin. In Vienna he found the upper classes were of the Germanic type, and the lower orders very mixed, with a large Slavic element.

On leaving Vienna he returned to England through Italy and France, adding much to his knowledge of the races of those countries, which at that date were unexplored fields for the anthropologist. He finally settled down as a medical practitioner in Bristol.

The long list of anthropological papers published by Dr. Beddoe shows how persistently the rest of his life has been devoted to his favourite science.

In 1867 he was awarded a prize of 100 guineas by the Welsh National Eisteddfod for the best essay on the origin of the English nation, which was afterwards embodied in his classical book on the "Races of Britain."

He was the proposer of the first anthropometric committee of the British Association, and also the initiator of a separate section for anthropology at the B.A. In 1889 he was president of the Anthropological Institute, and he gives many interesting details about the amalgamation of the two older anthropological societies to form the institution which at present represents anthropology in this country.

Even now, in his eighty-fifth year, Dr. Beddoe's mental keenness and activity would put to shame that of most younger men.

PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY.

Introduction to Physical Chemistry. By Prof. J. Walker, F.R.S. Sixth edition. Pp. xii+417. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 10s. net.

AFTER a useful life of eleven years, this well-known text-book appears in a thoroughly revised edition, in which, no doubt, it will continue to be a standard work. At first sight it appears as if the size of the work had remained sensibly constant—to use a favourite term of physical chemistry—actually there has been an increase of 27 per cent., and the additional chapters on alloys, hydrates, colloidal solutions, dimensions of atoms and molecules, neutrality and salt hydrolysis, electromotive force, polarisation and electrolysis, and radio-active transformations have

added much to its value. Of these the chapter on alloys may be mentioned as a particularly successful piece of exposition.

The book reflects as much as ever the spirit of a very true believer in the ionic dissociation hypothesis, and little emphasis is given to the difficulties and objections or to the criticism by which it has been assailed. Although in an elementary work an author can scarcely be expected to go into great detail, it must be remembered that the English student still finds himself in an atmosphere where there is a good deal of oburgation about the ionic theory, and if Prof. Walker had dealt with the difficulties collectively it would probably have been a convenience to students.

The following points have been noted for remark in the course of reading. On p. 83 the wording may readily give the impression that the vapour rising from a boiling salt solution has a temperature of 100° C., a matter on which there is a widely prevalent misconception among students. On p. 227 it would have been well to explain why the Brownian movement is compatible with the conventional assumption that a body suspended in a liquid is subject to equal pressure in every direction. The explanation of "salting out," on p. 347, as a process depending *solely* on ionic concentration is scarcely justifiable. Lastly, Prof. Walker has used throughout the book his system of chloridion, sulphation sodion, &c., nomenclature. The present writer took exception privately to this nomenclature when it was first proposed, but was assured that with experience he would learn its value to students. This prediction has not been fulfilled, and whatever philosophical defence may be made of the system, he remains of the opinion that it is not helpful. A. S.

BRITAIN'S BIRDS.

Britain's Birds and their Nests. Described by A. Landsborough Thomson, with introduction by Prof. J. A. Thomson. 132 drawings in colour by G. Rankin. Pp. xxviii+340. (London: W. and R. Chambers, Ltd., 1910.)

ANOTHER gorgeous volume on Britain's birds and their nests! Truly of the making of books on this subject there seems no end. Happy the publishers, and authors we presume, supported by a public with so insatiable an appetite for British ornithology. We could exhaust the space at our disposal with a mere list of the books and serials on this subject which are issuing or have issued from the press within the past two years and have come under notice in these pages. The name on the title-page of a gifted professor in a great northern university, as introducer of his son as author has given special zest to the perusal of this particular volume.

Prof. Arthur Thomson writes an introduction to "Mr. Rankin's beautiful pictures and my son's text." We must, much to our regret, however, confess to considerable disappointment in the volume before us. The text is excellent. Indeed, the various biographies are pleasantly written, and very accurate as a whole, but little really appears to have been left for Mr. Landsborough Thomson to say that has not already been often told.

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But it is with the plates that fault is chiefly to be found. They are all "very pretty," but we have more of art than of nature in them. We suspect that they are mostly studio pictures rather than out-of-door studies. Without exception the species Mr. Rankin has depicted are the most "proper" series of British birds we have ever made the acquaintance of. They never foul the ground, when 'tis their nature to; they never disturb a blade of grass or a single petal of the beautiful flowers that embroider their nests in nearly every case. They are indeed the most æsthetic company we have yet met with, in the choice of nesting sites.

We miss, too, in many of the plates, the characteristic attitude of the bird represented. There is something lacking in the pose of the herring gull to those familiar with it "in the open." In the thick-knee the beak is too thin and its eye too small; in the corn-crake the true ralline attitude has not been caught. We failed to recognise the nidifugous nestling figured on plate 88, Fig. 3, as a young partridge until we had consulted the reference.

As to the eggs figured, it would be quite impossible for even one well acquainted with them in many cases to determine their parentage from the plates. Their size—no dimensions being given in the text—is also quite undeterminable, and their colour often far from true to nature. There is no doubt that as regards tint the three-colour process is very often to blame; but where it fails some indication should be given in the text.

The author, yet a very young man, shows by this ambitious venture into the world of books that he is possessed of "the passion of the ornithologist," and by it gives promise that we may expect from him an ornithological work "going far beyond the recording of occurrences," to quote his father's words, "and the observations of movements important and indispensable as these and similar inquiries are."

OUR BOOK SHELF.

An Introduction to Experimental Psychology. By Dr. C. S. Myers. (The Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature.) Pp. vii+156. (Cambridge: University Press, 1911.) Price 1s. net.

IN this little book Dr. Myers gives a very interesting account of modern views in certain parts of the science of experimental psychology. The topics selected for discussion, and forming the headlines of successive chapters, are:—"Touch, Temperature, and Pain," "Colour Vision," "The Müller-Lyer Illusion," "Experimental Æsthetics," "Memory," and "Mental Tests and their Uses" (two chapters). On each of these subjects much important work has been done within quite recent years, and the exceptionally clear way in which the author sums up the latest results and brings out their theoretical importance will make the book of great value to physicians, educationists, and others who are finding a knowledge of the general methods and results of the science an indispensable supplement to their ordinarily-recognised intellectual equipment.

The first chapter contains a full account of the recent researches of Drs. Rivers and Head on human nerve division, which have modified so extensively our views on tactile sensibility. The chapter on the Müller-